Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A bootable software delivery device for connecting in a disconnectable manner to a computer and delivering software to the computer, the software delivery device comprising:

a connection port for connecting in a disconnectable manner the software delivery device to the computer;

a microcontroller coupling the connection port for controlling the software delivery device; and

a flash memory coupling the microcontroller for storing a software;

wherein the microcontroller is so programmed that the software is executable by the computer only when the computer is booted up from the software delivery device.

2. (Original) The software delivery device of claim 1 wherein the microcontroller prevents copying of the software from the flash memory of the software delivery device.

3. (Original) The software delivery device of claim 1 wherein the connection port is an integrated drive electronics (IDE) port.

4. (Original) The software delivery device of claim 1 wherein the connection port is a small computer system interface (SCSI) port.

5. (Original) The software delivery device of claim 1 wherein the connection port is a universal serial bus (USB) port.

6. (Currently Amended) A software delivery device for connecting in a disconnectable manner to a computer and delivering software to the computer for providing software copy protection, the software delivery device comprising:

a connection port for electrically connecting in a disconnectable manner the software delivery device to the computer;

a microcontroller, electrically connected to the connection port, in which an authentication program is installed for booting the computer from the software delivery device;

a flash memory electrically connected to the microcontroller, the flash memory comprising a boot sector for booting the computer in accordance with the authentication program; and

a private program stored in the flash memory, the private program being executable by the computer only after booting from the boot sector is performed;

wherein the authentication program instructs the microcontroller to return a virtual boot sector rather than the boot sector to the computer.

7. (Original) The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the microcontroller prevents copying of the private program from the flash memory of the software delivery device.

8. (Original) The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the connection port is an integrated drive electronics (IDE) port.

9. (Original) The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the connection port is a small computer system interface (SCSI) port.

10. (Original) The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the connection port is a

universal serial bus (USB) port.

11. (Original) The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the authentication program is stored in a read only memory of the microcontroller.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting a software, the method comprising:

providing a bootable device for connecting in a disconnectable manner to a computer and delivering the software to the computer, the bootable device comprising a flash memory for storing the software, a connection port for connecting in a disconnectable manner to the computer, and a microcontroller for executing the software with the computer via the connection port; and

programming the microcontroller in such a way that the software is executable by the computer only when the computer is booted up from the bootable device.